

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SIG-01 ACDA-07
ERDA-05 ARA-06 NASA-01 OES-06 /122 R

DRAFTED BY PM/DCA:MARIETTI:CM
APPROVED BY PM:LHGELB
PM/DCA:VBAKER
S/PRS:PPERYENI
EUR:AHUGHES
NEA:JMONTVILLE
AF:USTRAUS
S/PJPATTON
NSC: MR. QUANDT
P:DTICE
S/S:PSEBASTIAN

-----240637Z 069030 /14

R 231850Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
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AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
USCINCEUR
CINCLANT
CINCPAC
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CINCPACFLT
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 064374

MILITARY ADDEES ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

1. DURING HIS MARCH 9, 1977 PRESS CONFERENCE, PRESIDENT CARTER WAS ASKED: QUOTE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS YOU HAVE SPOKEN IN TERMS OF THE U.S. BEING READY TO MOVE TO A QUICK SALT AGREEMENT, OMITTING CRUISE MISSILES AND BACKFIRE BOMBERS, IF NECESSARY. I AM WONDERING SIR HAVE YOU HAD ANY INDICATION YET OF RUSSIAN INTENTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT? UNQUOTE. THERE WAS THEN A FOLLOW ON QUESTION: QUOTE WHAT

ABOUT NUCLEAR REDUCTIONS? UNQUOTE.

2. THE PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:
QUOTE AGAIN, I THINK YOU HAVE TWO APPROACHES TO THE
QUESTION.

I HAVE PROPOSED BOTH DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY TO THE SOVIET
UNION, PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY, THAT WE TRY TO IDENTIFY
THOSE ITEMS ON WHICH THERE IS RELATIVELY CLOSE AGREEMENT,
NOT COMPLETELY YET, BECAUSE DETAILS ARE VERY DIFFICULT ON
OCCASION. BUT I HAVE, FOR INSTANCE, SUGGESTED THAT WE
FOREGO THE OPPORTUNITY TO ARM SATELLITE BODIES AND ALSO TO
FOREGO THE OPPORTUNITY TO DESTROY OBSERVATION SATELLITES.

WE HAVE ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE INDIAN OCEAN BE COMPLETELY
DEMILITARIZED, THAT A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN BE PUT INTO
EFFECT, THAT PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF TEST MISSILE LAUNCHINGS
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BE EXCHANGED, AND I WOULD LIKE TO SEE ANY OF THESE ITEMS
ON WHICH THE SOVIETS WILL AGREE QUICKLY BE CONCLUDED AND
THEN GET DOWN TO THE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS ON
MUCH MORE DRASTIC, OVERALL COMMITMENTS TO ATOMIC WEAPONS,
LEADING ULTIMATELY TO THE COMPLETE ELIMINATION OF ATOMIC
WEAPONS FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH. UNQUOTE.

3. ON MARCH 17 IN HIS UN SPEECH PRESIDENT CARTER SAID
THAT WE WILL QUOTE SEEK TO ESTABLISH SOVIET WILLINGNESS
TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH US ON MUTUAL MILITARY RESTRAINT
IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. UNQUOTE.

4. IF ASKED BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FOR CLARIFICATION OF
THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS YOU MAY DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING:

IT HAS BEEN THE LONGSTANDING POSITION OF THE USG THAT WE
WISH TO AVOID A COMPETITIVE ARMS RACE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.
PRESIDENT CARTER HAS EXPRESSED THE INTEREST OF THE UNITED
STATES TO MOVE FORWARD ON A VARIETY OF ARMS CONTROL
MEASURES INCLUDING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE DEMILITARIZATION
OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE. AS THE
PRESIDENT SAID AT THE UN WE WILL SEEK TO ESTABLISH
SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH US ON MUTUAL
MILITARY RESTRAINT IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. SECRETARY VANCE
WILL RAISE THIS ISSUE DURING HIS TRIP TO MOSCOW AT THE END
OF MARCH.

5. FOR CANBERRA, WELLINGTON, LONDON, PARIS, TOKYO: YOU
MAY ADD THAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO DETERMINE IF THE SOVIET
UNION IS SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN INDIAN OCEAN ARMS
LIMITATIONS. IN THE PAST THEY HAVE PUBLICLY CLAIMED TO

SUPPORT THE GOAL OF REDUCING THE MILITARY ACTIVITIES OF
NON-LITTORAL STATES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, BUT THIS MAY HAVE
BEEN ONLY AN EFFORT TO GAIN A PROPAGANDA ADVANTAGE. IF IT
APPEARS THAT THE SOVIETS ARE INTERESTED IN A SERIOUS
BILATERAL EXCHANGE WE WILL BE CONSULTING FULLY WITH
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CONCERNED ALLIES BEFORE TAKING FURTHER STEPS OR MAKING
DETAILED ARMS CONTROL PROPOSALS.

6. FOR ALL ADDRESSEES: YOU MAY DRAW ON PARA 4 FOR PRESS
GUIDANCE AS REQUIRED.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Litigation History:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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